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BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

Science of Mechanics. A critical and historical account of its development. By Dr. Ernst Mach, Professor of the History and Theory of Inductive Science in the University of Vienna. Translated from the German by Thomas J. McCormack. Second revised and enlarged edition, with 259 cuts and illustrations. 8vo. Cloth, xx+605 pages. Price, \$2.00 net. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Co.

This work differs from others on the same subject in treating of the principles of mechanics principally under the aspect of their development. To the student reading the subject for the first time, this method will prove easy and interesting. He will be able to master many principles at first reading that would require much study to master in other works. As a history of mechanics, it is excellent, and as a text-book on Mechanics it is admirable, its treatment being lucid, clear and forcible. It should be in the hands of every teacher of Physics and Mechanics.

Elementary Principles in Statical Mechanics. Developed with especial reference to the Rational Foundation of Thermodynamics. By J. Willard Gibbs, Ph. D., LL. D., Professor of Mathematical Physics in Yale University. 8vo. Cloth. xii+207 pages. Price, \$4.00 net. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

The matter of this volume, the author says, consists in large measure of result which have been obtained by the investigations of Clausius, Maxwell, and Boltzmann, although the point of view and the arrangement is different. The first chapter considers the principle of conservation of extension-in-phase and derives what may be called the fundamental equation of statical mechanics. In the general case, the fundamental equation admits of integration, which gives a principle variously expressed, according to the point of view from which it is regarded, as the conservation of density-in-phase, or of extension-in-phase, or of probability-in-phase. This principle of the conservation of probability of phase is applied to the theory of errors in the calculated phase of a system, when the determination of the arbitrary constants of the integral equations are subject to error. In the third chapter, the principle of conservation of extension-in-phase is applied to the integration of the differential equation of motion. In the fourth and following chapters the author returns to the consideration of statical equilibrium and confines his attention to the conservative systems. In the fourteenth chapter thermodynamic is discussed, and in chapter fifteen is considered the modification of the preceding results which is necessary when systems composed of a number of entirely similar particles are considered.

The American Monthly Review of Reviews. An International Illustrated Monthly Magazine. Edited by Dr. Albert Shaw. Price, \$2.50 per year in advance. Single number, 25 cents. The Review of Reviews Co., 13 Astor Place, New York.

Among the contributed articles in the *Review of Reviews* for June are the following: "Bowdoin College: a Century of Service," by William I. Cole; "The Queen Regent and the Young King of Spain," by Helene Vacaresco; and "Two American Novelists" (Bret Harte and Frank Stockton).

The Literary Digest. A Weekly Compendium of the Contemporaneous Thought of the World. Price, \$3.00 per year in advance. Single number, 10 cents. Funk & Wagnalls Co., Publishers, 30 Lafayette Place, New York.

The Cosmopolitan. An International Illustrated Monthly Magazine. Edited and Published by John Brisben Walker. Price, \$1.00 per year in advance. Single numbers, 10 cents. Irvington-on-the-Hudson.